5/25/84 AO 400-1A

The Aluminum Situation

Department of Economics and Statistics

May 1984

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Total Net Shipments Up 29.5 Percent

Net shipments for the first quarter of 1984, at an estimated 4,075 million pounds, were 29.5% higher than 3,227 million pounds for 1983's first quarter.

Domestic shipments of 3,802 million pounds were 26.3% higher then 2,937 million pounds shipped in 1983's first quarter.

Imports were up a strong 70.7% but exports declined 6%.

Thru March 1984

	3 mos. 1984	3 mos. 1983	% Change
Mill Products	3,114	2,599	+19.8
Ingot	961	628	+53.1
Total	4,075	3,227	+26.3
Less Exports	(273)	(290)	- 6.0
Domestic Total	3,802	2,937	+29.5

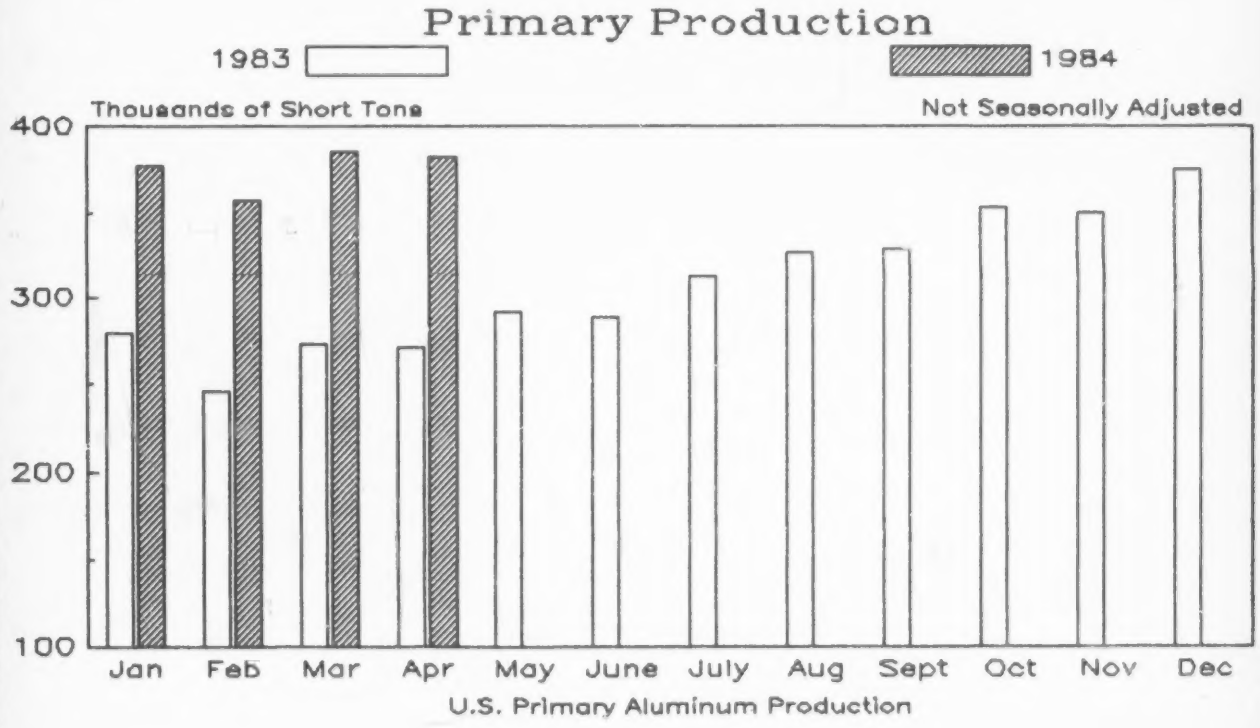
Millions of Pounds
Source: Latest two months estimated by the Aluminum Association. Previous data-Bureau of the Census.

Production Rate Up 41.6 Percent

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged 12,764 short tons daily during April 1984 compared with an average 9,015 tons a day in April 1983.

The annual rate of production in April 1984 was 4,671,758 tons, compared to 3,290,475 tons in April 1983. The revised March 1984 production rate was 4,551,334 tons.

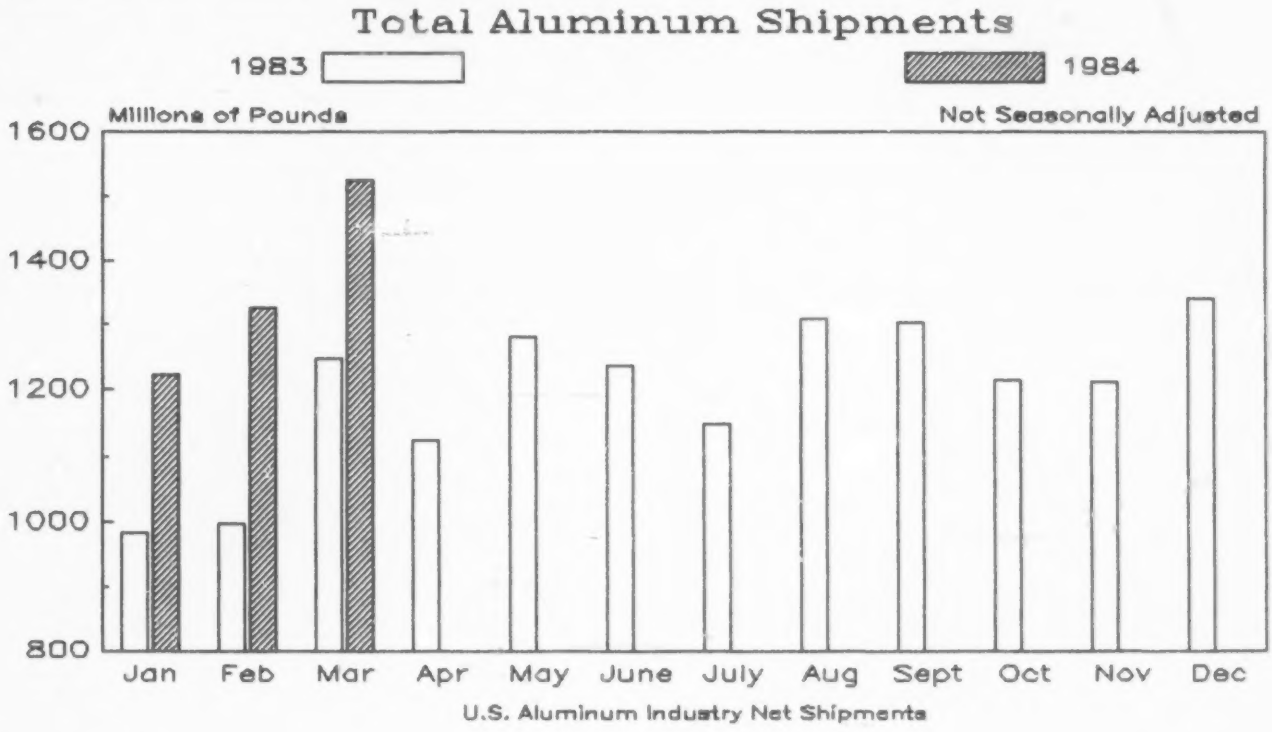
Actual production in April 1984 was 382,931 tons. March 1984 was revised to 385,496 tons.



Aluminum Association total industry estimates are based on information reported by members, which is aggregated by the Association and then expanded to total industry data utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

March 1984 Shipments Up 22.4 Percent Over Year Ago

March 1984 net shipments at an estimated 1,526 million pounds were 22.4% higher than March 1983 shipments of 1,247 million pounds, and the highest single month's volume ever. Domestic shipments were up 23.7% vs. March 1983. Net imports of mill products were almost double those of a year ago.



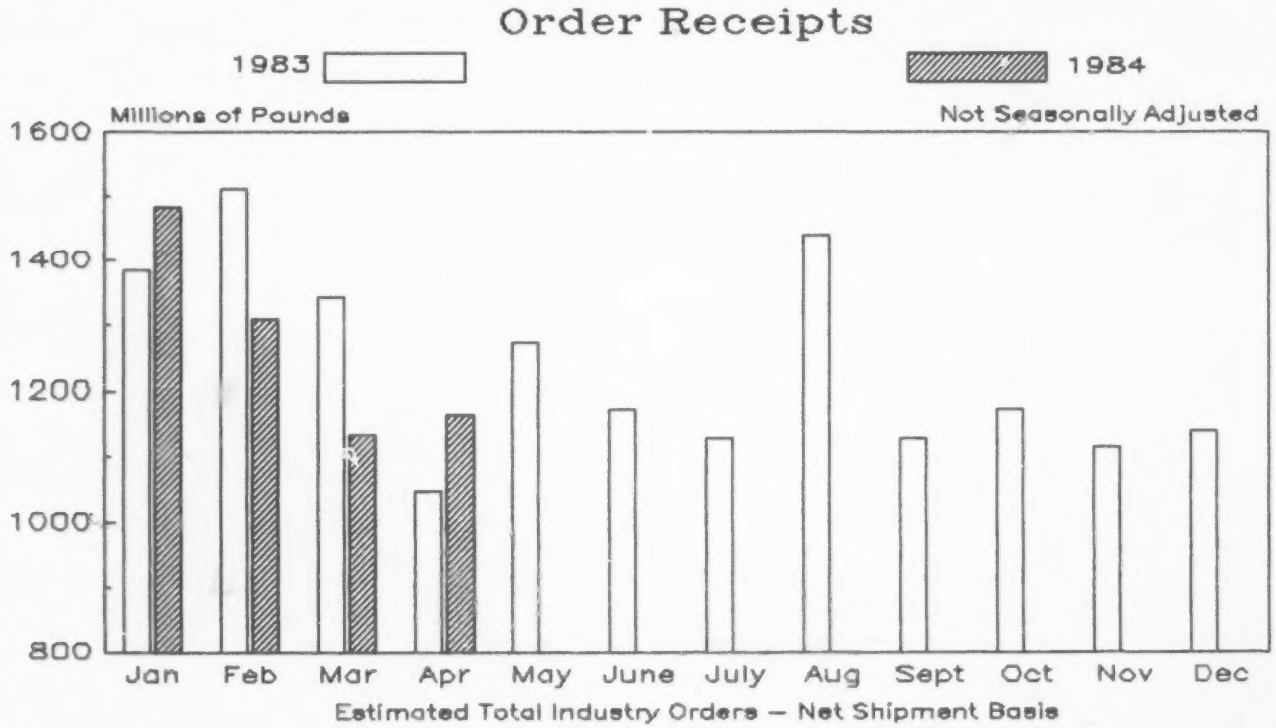
Net Shipments
(Millions of Pounds)

	1984 Mar.	1983 Mar.	1984 3 mos.	1983 3 mos.	% Change 1984 vs. 1983
Sheet	635.0	535.1	1,676.5	1,396.0	+20.1
Plate	22.0	21.9	61.3	56.3	+ 8.9
Foil	74.0	73.7	213.0	197.6	+ 7.8
Rod, Bar & Wire	27.0	28.7	74.0	64.8	+14.2
Electrical Conductor	67.0	65.4	170.6	169.8	+ 0.5
Extruded Products	215.0	198.2	622.1	524.3	+18.7
Welded Tube	5.0	3.9	16.1	11.5	+40.0
Powder & Paste	7.0	8.2	18.2	21.2	-14.2
Forgings & Impacts	12.0	10.4	35.1	28.6	+22.7
Net Imports of Mill Products (Total) (a)	86.0	46.1	226.9	128.8	+76.2
Total Mill Products	1,150.0	991.6	3,113.8	2,598.9	+19.8
Ingot	376.0	255.4	961.4	628.1	+53.1
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	1,526.0	1,247.0	4,075.2	3,227.0	+26.3
Exports	(88.0)	(84.7)	(273.0)	(290.5)	- 6.0
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	1,438.0	1,162.3	3,802.2	2,936.5	+29.5

*Latest two months estimated by the Aluminum Association.
Previous data-Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce.
(a) Not included in product data above.
(b) Sufficient data not available for reliable estimate. Implicit in this item is a 10 to 25% variation.
r-revised

April 1984 Order Receipts Up 11.2 Percent vs. Year Ago

Estimated net new order receipts for April 1984 of 1,163 million pounds were 11.2% higher than the 1,047 million pounds for April 1983. Domestic orders were 13.1% higher. Orders for can stock were about twice the April 1983 volume but other sheet and plate orders were down 20.3%. For the first four months of 1984, domestic mill product orders were 2.3 percent ahead of the same 1983 period.



Order Receipts
(Millions of Pounds)

	1984 April*	1983 April	1984 4 months	1983 4 months	% Change 1984 v. 1983
Can Stock (a)	306.1	157.9	1,170.2	1,015.2	+ 15.3
Sheet & Plate, Other	279.3	350.5	1,337.2	1,515.1	- 11.7
Foil	65.6	68.5	264.5	293.6	- 9.9
Rod, Bar & Wire	28.8	16.5	102.8	95.2	+ 8.0
Electrical Conductor	80.0	46.8	272.9	227.2	+ 20.1
Extruded Products	177.8	157.0	780.2	723.0	+ 7.9
Powder & Paste	6.5	7.9	45.5	34.7	+ 31.1
Forgings & Impacts	11.2	3.1	40.4	19.5	+107.2
Domestic Mill Products	955.3	808.2	4,013.7	3,923.5	+ 2.3
Ingot (Total)	142.9	162.7	791.5	1,056.2	- 25.1
TOTAL DOMESTIC	1,098.2	970.9	4,805.2	4,979.7	- 3.5
Exports	65.1	75.6	282.2	302.1	- 6.6
TOTAL ALL PRODUCTS	1,163.3	1,046.5	5,087.4	5,281.8	- 3.7

Source: The Association estimates total industry orders, based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available upon request.
(a) Import orders included in Sheet and Plate, Other.
*Latest month.
r-revised.

Inventroies Increased in March 1984 By 46 Million Pounds

Producer inventories increased an estimated 46 million pounds in March 1984 from February 1984. Integrated producers' stocks went up 30 million pounds and non-integrateds' stocks increased 15 million pounds.

Month-End Aluminum Inventories
By Type of Producer
Figures in Millions of Pounds

Month	Total*	Integrated	Smelters	Non-Integrated
Dec 80	5,076	4,018	261	797
Dec 81	6,607	5,542	266	798
Dec 82	6,199	5,224	216	759
Mar 83	5,892	4,914	199	779
Apr 83	5,744	4,774	189	781
May 83	5,579	4,596	190	793
Jun 83	5,439	4,431	199	809
Jul 83	5,472	4,453	193	826
Aug 83	5,375	4,345	192	838
Sep 83	5,258	4,209	202	848
Oct 83	5,296	4,260	198	838
Nov 83	5,208	4,140	193	874
Dec 83	5,009r	3,979r	163r	868r
Jan 84	5,153r	4,081r	184r	888
Feb 84	5,236r	4,132r	194r	920r
Mar 84	5,282	4,162	185	935

*Latest two months estimated by Aluminum Association. Previous data-Bureau of the Census. Inventories include ingot, mill products and scrap.
Early estimates are available approximately the 5th working day each month; however, there is a charge for this special service. Contact the Aluminum Association Department of Economics and Statistics for details.

Imports and Exports

(Millions of Pounds)

		1984 Mar.	1983 Mar,	1984* 3 mos.	1983 3 mos.	% Change 1984 v. 1983
Imports	Mill Products	106.0	51.8	268.0	147.0	+ 82.3
	Ingot	227.2	137.2	558.3	337.0	+ 65.6
	Total	333.2	189.0	826.3	484.1	+ 70.7
	Scrap (+ dross)	30.0	14.1	69.3	34.0	+103.7
	Grand Total	363.2	203.1	895.6	518.1	+ 72.9
Exports	Mill Products	48.3	53.9	144.0	120.6	+ 19.4
	Ingot	39.7	30.8	128.9	169.8	- 24.1
	Total	88.0	84.7	272.9	290.4	- 6.0
	Scrap	32.9	47.2	115.3	96.0	+ 20.1
	Grand Total	121.0	131.8	388.2	386.5	+ 0.5
Net Imports		242.2	71.2	507.3	131.6	

*Includes correction to February 1984 data where ingot imports and exports were inadvertently transposed.

Source: Department of Commerce, Industry Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census. Excludes backed foil.